

Rape and Sexual Assault in Massachusetts, 2004-2005

Incidents Reported by Survivors Who Seek Help from Rape Crisis Programs

In Massachusetts an estimated 22% of women and 7% of men experience sexual assault in their lifetime.ⁱ To respond to the needs of survivors of sexual violence, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) funded 17 local Rape Crisis Centers (RCCs) across Massachusetts, as well as a statewide Spanish language helpline. The information below is a summary of data collected by these programs over a one-year time period.

From July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005, trained rape crisis counselors from MDPH-funded RCCs and the statewide Spanish language helpline **responded to over 11,000 hotline calls**; over 8,000 of these were from survivors.ⁱⁱ In addition to information on the number of hotline calls received, counselors also collect information on incidents of sexual assault that are reported to them during the course of providing services. The primary purpose of hotline counselors is crisis intervention; as such, counselors complete data forms to the best of their ability, but data may be incomplete. The extent of missing data on a particular question is noted in the text. RCCs and the statewide Spanish language helpline received 2,691 unduplicated reports of sexual assault. Of these reports, 1,928 were made directly by survivors. The data presented below detail these reports from survivors only.

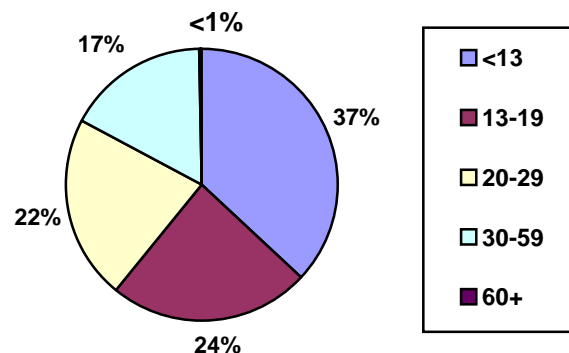
Among the survivors who reported to RCCs and the Spanish language helpline:

- **94%** were female, of 91% who provided information on their gender;
- Age at the time of assault ranged from 1 year to over 60 years, of 40% of callers who provided information on their age;ⁱⁱⁱ
- **44%** of victims reported **injuries** in addition to the sexual assault, of 48% who provided information on additional injuries;
- **Over a third (34%) reported** having a **disability**, of 49% who provided information on disability status at the time of the report.

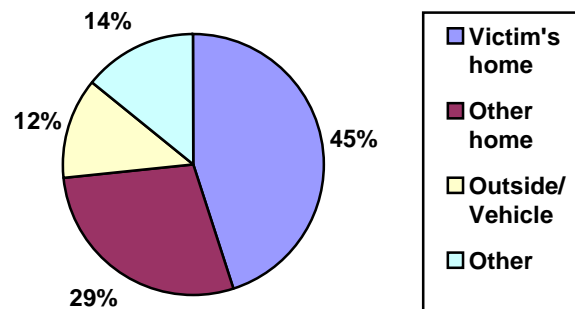
Circumstances of the assaults:

- **Weapons** were reported to have been used in 14% of assaults, of 45% in which information was provided on weapon use;
- **Almost half** of sexual assaults reported **occurred at the victim's home**, of 67% in which information was provided on location of assault.

Age at time of Assault



Location of Assault



Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Center for Community Health ♦ Division of Violence and Injury Prevention

250 Washington Street, Fourth Floor, Boston, MA 02108 (617) 624-5463, (617) 624-5992 tty

<http://www.mass.gov/dph/fch/dvip.htm>

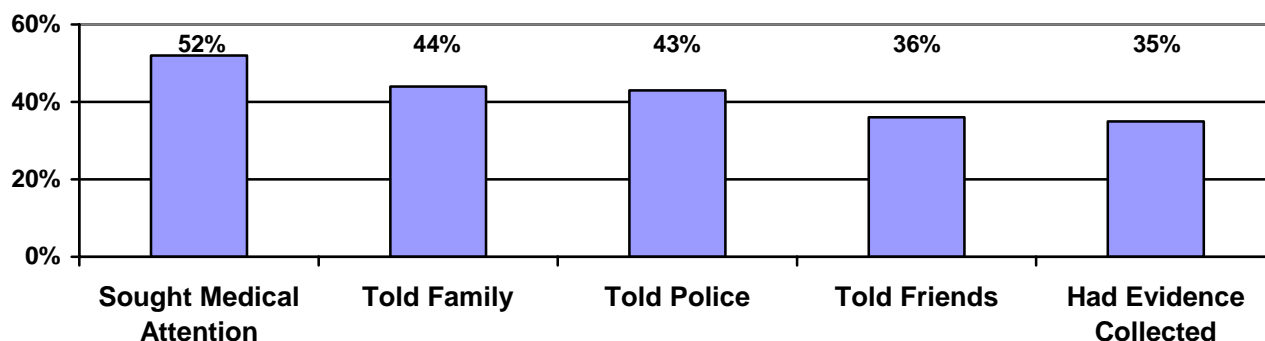
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Sexual Assault Perpetrators:

- Survivors reported that **friends and acquaintances** committed 34% of assaults, followed by 23% **current or ex-spouses or partners, dates, boyfriends/girlfriends**; 17% **parents, step-parents, siblings, or other relatives**; 14% **strangers**; and 11% other perpetrators, of 78% of assaults in which information was provided on victim-perpetrator relationship;
- Based on survivor reports, **younger victims** were more often victimized by **parents, caretakers, siblings and other relatives**, while **adult victims** were more often victimized by **current and former partners, dates, and boyfriend/girlfriends**, or by **friends and acquaintances**;
- Men committed 95% of reported sexual assaults**, of 78% of assaults in which information was provided on perpetrator gender.

Survivors who also sought other help:

- Some survivors **told family (44%), friends (36%), and/or police (43%)**, of 66% who provided information on reporting to others;
- 52%** sought **medical attention**, of 69% who provided information on medical attention;
- 35%** had **forensic evidence collected**, of 68% who provided information on evidence collection.



**If you need help please contact your local rape crisis center.
See attached list for resources.**

Data Collection and Limitations

Data contained in this report are reported to Rape Crisis Centers by survivors. Providing support and information to survivors is a priority of RCC counselors, over data completion. For more information about sexual assault-related data, please see the Sexual Assault Prevention and Survivor Services website at: <http://www.mass.gov/dph/fch/sapss/>.

ⁱ Commonwealth of Massachusetts. A Profile of Health Among Massachusetts Adults, 2003. Boston, Massachusetts: Health Survey Program, Center for Health Information, Statistics, Research, and Evaluation, Department of Public Health.

ⁱⁱ Hotline services are provided for survivors, family and friends, and professionals for support and resource referrals. Survivors may call the Hotline multiple times or may prefer to discuss the assault in face-to-face counseling rather than on the hotline, thus the number of calls to the hotline is a measure of service use and is not a measure of sexual assault incidents reported to DPH-funded RCCs.

ⁱⁱⁱ Many survivors do not contact RCCs immediately after they are assaulted but may seek services later in life. Data on age at time of assault is collected in order to illustrate the demographics of victims as accurately as possible.

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Winter, 2005

**Massachusetts Department of Public Health Sexual Assault Prevention and Survivor Services
List of MA Comprehensive Rape Crisis Centers 1/06**

WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

Elizabeth Freeman Center	(h) (413) 443-0089
Sexual Assault Program/Elizabeth Freeman	(t) (413) 499-2425
43 Francis Avenue	(o) (413) 499-2425
Pittsfield MA 01201	(f) (413) 443-3016
 New England Learning Center for Women in Transition	 (h) (413) 772-0806
Sexual Assault Program/NELCWIT	(t) (413) 772-0806
479 Main Street	(o) (413) 772-0871
Greenfield MA 01301	(f) (413) 772-2743
 University of Massachusetts – Amherst	 (h) (413) 545-0800
Everywoman's Center, Wilder Hall	(t) (413) 545-0800
221 Stockbridge Road UMASS	(o) (413) 545-0883
Amherst MA 01003	(f) (413) 557-0163
 YWCA of Western Massachusetts	 (h) (800) 796-8711
YWCA Rape Crisis/Springfield	(t) (413) 733-7100
1 Clough Street	(o) (413) 732-3121
Springfield MA 01103	(f) (413) 747-0542

CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS

Rape Crisis Center of Central MA	(h) (800) 870-5905
RCCCM/Worcester	(t) (508) 852-7600
799 West Boylston Street	(o) (508) 852-7600
Worcester MA 01606	(f) (508) 852-7870
 Rape Crisis Center of Central MA	 (h) (800) 870-5905
RCCCM/Fitchburg	(t) (508) 852-7600
275 Nichols Road	(o) (978) 343-5683
Fitchburg MA 01420	(f) (508) 852-7870
 Wayside Trauma Intervention Services	 (h) (800) 511-5070
Valley Rape Crisis Program/Milford	(t) (508) 478-4205
10 Asylum Street	(o) (508) 478-6888
Milford MA 01757	(f) (508) 478-9042
 SMOC	 (h) (800) 593-1125
Voices Against Violence/SMOC	(t) (508) 626-8686
300 Howard Street	(o) (508) 820-0834
Framingham MA 01702	(f) (508) 872-4264

NORTHEAST MASSACHUSETTS

Health and Education Services	(h) (800) 922-8772
North Shore RCC/HES	(t) (978) 921-8729
156 Cabot Street	(o) (978) 927-4506
Beverly MA 01915	(f) (978) 927-4507
 Rape Crisis Services of Greater Lowell	 (h) (800) 542-5212
RCSGL	(t) (978) 452-8723
144 Merrimack Street, Suite 304	(o) (978) 452-7721
Lowell MA 01852	(f) (978) 458-2822
 YWCA of Greater Lawrence	 (h) (877) 509-9922
YWCA Sexual Assault Program	(t) (978) 686-8840
38 Lawrence Street	(o) (978) 687-0331
Lawrence MA 01840	(f) (978) 691-5286

SOUTHEAST MASSACHUSETTS

A Safe Place	(h) (508) 228-2111
A Safe Place/Sexual Assault Program	(t) (508) 228-7095
24 Amelia Drive	(o) (508) 228-0561
Nantucket MA 02554	(f) (508) 228-8825
 Greater New Bedford Women's Center	 (h) (888) 839-6636
GNBWC Rape Crisis Program/New Bedford	(t) (508) 996-1177
405 County Street	(o) (508) 996-3343
New Bedford MA 02740	(f) (508) 999-7139
 Greater New Bedford Women's Center	 see above numbers
GNBWC Rape Crisis Program/Fall River	
211 Bedford Street	
Fall River MA (all correspondence via New Bedford address, please)	
 Health Care of Southeastern MA	 (h) (508) 588-8255
Womansplace/HCSMA	(t) (508) 894-2869
PO Box 4206	(o) (508) 580-3964
Brockton MA 02303	(f) (508) 588-0034
 Independence House	 (h) (800) 439-6507
Cape Cod RCC/Independence House	(t) (508) 771-6782
160 Basset Lane	(o) (508) 771-6507
Hyannis MA 02601	(f) (508) 778-0143
 Martha's Vineyard Community Services	 (h) (508) 696-7233
Women's Support Services of MVCS	(t) (508) 693-3843
111 Edgartown Road	(o) (508) 693-7900
Vineyard Haven MA 02568	(f) (508) 693-7192
 New Hope	 (h) (800) 323-4673
Sexual Assault Program/New Hope	(t) (800) 323-4673
140 Park Street	(o) (508) 226-4015
Attleboro MA 02703	(f) (508) 226-6917

BOSTON/128 AREA

Boston Area Rape Crisis Center	(h) (800) 841-8371
BARCC	(t) (617) 492-6434
99 Bishop Allen Drive	(o) (617) 492-8306
Cambridge MA 02139	(f) (617) 492-3291

STATEWIDE PROGRAMS

Jane Doe: MA Coalition Against Sexual Assault	(h) no hotline
Jane Doe, Inc.	(t) (617) 263-2200
14 Beacon Street, Suite 507	(o) (617) 248-0922
Boston MA 02108	(f) (617) 248-0902
 Rape Crisis Center of Central MA	 (h) (800) 223-5001
Llamanos Statewide Spanish Hotline	(t) (508) 852-7600
799 West Boylston Street	(o) (508) 852-7600
Worcester MA 01606	(f) (508) 852-7870